δδΞ

CODIB-D-56/1
14 October 1963

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

Joint Automatic Language Processing Group (JALPG)

The attached letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, to the

President, National Academy of Sciences, is for your information, and has

particular relevance to efforts made to coordinate Machine Translation (MT)

projects supported by Federal funds.

STAT

Paul A. Borel
Chairman

Attachment

C
O
P
Y

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 9 1963

Dr. Fredrick Seitz
President, National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Seitz:

The Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation and the Central
Intelligence Agency all sponsor projects in automatic processing of foreign
languages including projects in mechanical translation. Because of the
importance of national requirements for automatic language processing and
because of the need for a coordinated federal program of research and develop-
ment in this area, these three agencies have established a joint automatic
language processing group (JALPG) to provide overall coordination and
guidance. As other government agencies become active in automatic
language processing research and development they will be encouraged to
participate in this joint effort.

One of the first decisions of the joint group was recognition of the need for
an advisory committee which could provide directed technical assistance
as well as contributing independent observations. On behalf of the Director
of Defense Research and Engineering, (DoD), the National Science Foundation
and the Central Intelligence Agency, I should like to ask you to consider
establishing a committee on automatic language processing to serve as an
advisory group to us. It is anticipated that such a committee would be a
full time National Academy of Science staff function and would require
both part-time members and consultant services. Multiple support would be
provided by our three agencies. The principal technical areas with which
the committee would be concerned include computational linguistics,
mechanical translation, automatic abstracting, indexing and scanning of
foreign language texts together with associated hardware development such
as character recognition equipment for foreign language symbology, photo
composition equipment and the like.

Preliminary discussions on this matter have been held between Dr. Ruth
M. Davis, DDR&E, Mr. Richard See, NSF, and Dr. Glenn Finch of your

staff. We would like to assist your staff in any way possible in the establish-
ment of this committee if you agree with us on the pressing need for its
existence.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

Leland J. Haworth
Director

Carbon copy to:
    Mr. Paul Borel, Central Intelligence Agency
    Mr. B. W. Augenstein, Department of Defense